



FLWEMS Paramedics Adult Protocol for the Management of: **HOSPICE CARE**

Indications

To outline paramedic care and management of the patient in a hospice care program.

Overview

Hospice care provides medical services, emotional support, and spiritual resources for people who are in the last stages of a terminal illness, such as cancer or heart failure. Hospice care also helps family members manage the practical details and emotional challenges of caring for a dying loved one.

The goal of hospice treatment is to keep the patient comfortable while they are dying. This philosophy is a shift from usual medical treatments, in which health professionals strive to cure the disease. Hospice services are not intended to speed up or prolong the dying process, but focus instead on relieving pain and other symptoms. Hospice caregivers are concerned with enhancing the quality of remaining life by keeping you as alert and comfortable as possible in a familiar environment with family and friends.

Procedure

1. Patient approach is different in that paramedics must understand that these patients have a chronic illness from which their death is emanate.
2. Paramedic focus should be placed on patient comfort as well as patient and family advocate.
3. Review patients medical-legal documents (living wills, etc) for authenticity, completeness and specific guidance.
4. All pre-hospital treatment and disposition decisions should involve the patient's Primary Care Provider (PCP) when possible.
5. Contact Medical Control for further orders as needed.

CAIRA/Chemical Surety Considerations

None

Triage Considerations

1. In the event of a MASS CAL incident, DOA's should be "black-tagged" and made to be a lower priority than that of viable patients.
2. General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital (GLWACH) Patient Administration Division (PAD) must be contacted for accountability and tracking of these bodies.

END OF SOP – NOTHING FOLLOWS